YUCCA MOUNTAIN – LESSONS LEARNED FROM NEVADA

Bruce Breslow, Executive Director,
State of Nevada Agency for Nuclear Projects
Blue Ribbon Commission on
America's Nuclear Future
July 7, 2010

Part 1 – What Went Wrong?

- Placing the repository program within DOE may have doomed it from the start.
- The Nuclear Waste Policy Act, as amended in 1987, created an adversarial role between DOE and the State of Nevada.
- DOE ignored serious geotechnical problems, trivialized stakeholder concerns and force-fit solutions.

What Went Wrong? — cont'd

- Yucca Mountain failed for a lot of reasons, but a critical element was unquestionably the forced nature of the siting process.
- Congress shares a large portion of the blame for the failure of the federal high-level radioactive waste program to produce a repository.

Part 2 – The Future

- How can the federal government successfully site and build a deep geologic repository in the future?
- There must be credibility developed on the local, regional and State level.
- There must be meaningful compensation without infringing on the rights of state, local and tribal governments.

The Future – cont'd

- A repository cannot be a federal project. It must be a COMMUNITY PROJECT, run by a federal or private entity, joined equally with its state, tribe, county and local partners.
- A successful repository project can be achieved through an open process fully involving the state, region and local communities.